Force as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated 30th June, 1993 under the newsitem entitled, "Red-tapism bulldozers IAF Safety steps"; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Delay in the procurement of bulldozers was not allowed to affect Flight Safety; as alternative arrangements to control unwieldy growth of vegetation around runways were continuing.

Russian offer of T-80 U Tanks to India

1429. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has offered its latest tank T-80 U to India;

(b) whether these new tanks besides using normal ammunition also fire rockets;

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted the Russian offer; and

(d) if so, the number of tanks supplied so far to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) There is no proposal for the import of any tank from Russsa, including the Russian T-80 U tank. No other information can be divulged in the interest of national security.

Family pension endorsement facility

1430. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that family pension endorsement facility has been extended to all Defence Service Pensioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the number of Defence personnel to be benefited with this move;

(c) whether such facility is available to civilian employees also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor with the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The endorsement of family pension entitlement is being made on the Pension Payment Order of all Defence personnel including civilians irrespective of their date of retirement since 1988.

Approximately, 2000 Commissioned Officers and 40,000 personnel below Officer rank and 12,000 Defence Civilians are being benefited by this facility every year.

Navy and Coast Guard operation to check smuggling

1431. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a joint Navy and Coast Guard operation in West Coast to check smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of success achieved so far in the matter of controlling smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details cannot be divulged at this stage in the interest of operations.

Strengthening the coast guards

1432. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press newsitem captioned 'Coast Guard not equipped' as reported in the Times of India dated 9-6-93;